

"S&S" Perfin - Shaw & Sons from Ken Dee

There are 4 'S&S' dies known used by Shaw & Sons. All are recorded in Tomkins as used from Fetter Lane, London EC4 (and two of them from Crane Court as well as Fetter Lane).

Ken came across a cover from "Shaw & Sons" - no perfin just Royal Mail franking - with a different address to the one in our catalogue. He wrote to the company and asked if the two concerns were one and the same. The following is the reply.

"This is indeed the same company which for many years had premises in Fetter Lane, London and would certainly have used the stamps perforated as you describe.

We also supplied (and still supply, though not manufacture) embossing and perforating presses, the latter being used mainly for making the official mark on ballot papers at elections, for security purposes. The presses are now made for us by a company called Bolsons Ltd, who are based in Stratford, East London.

We are due to celebrate our 250th anniversary as publishers, printers and stationers in the year 2000. "

In Bulletin 296 pg.6, the perfin machine found by Tony Llewellyn-Edwards was manufactured by Shaw & Sons and, for once I am not going to waste time finding the references, I am sure there have been many mentions of this firm in relation to perforating machines in past Bulletins.

Incidentally I have a perfin cover from Shaw & Sons dated 1958 with address of 2 Bell Green Lane, Lower Sydenham, London SE26.

